

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 11, 13, 16, and 20-21 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1-2, 11, 13, 16, and 20 have been amended, Claim 21 has been added, and Claims 3-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments and new claim can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Office Action states that the Non-Patent Literature submitted in the IDS filed June 25, 2005 has not been considered because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of the Literature and is not in the English language.

Applicant notes that Section III of this IDS sets forth the relevance of the Non-Patent Literature as a Communication from a foreign Patent Office, specifically noting that the Communication stems from a *counterpart* foreign application in Japan. Applicant respectfully submits that communication between a foreign patent office and an applicant for patent is relevant to the subject application when such communication stems from a counterpart application.

Because the IDS as filed indicates the relevance of the Non-Patent Literature filed in the IDS of June 25, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits that the Non-Patent Literature should be considered along with the already-considered Foreign References submitted in the IDS.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is moot as the term “equivalent” has been removed from Claim 20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (U.S. Pat. No.6,147,724).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 calls for an electronic instrument including an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material, a light-guide plate illuminating the electro-optical panel, a wiring circuit board disposed in the rear of the light-guide plate, a conductive terminal disposed on the wiring circuit board, a circuit board arranged substantially in parallel with a surface of the electro-optical panel, and a connector mounted on the circuit board and having an elastically deformable connector terminal. See FIG. 1. The thickness of the light-guide plate gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface with the wiring circuit board being disposed on the inclined surface. See pg. 12, Paragraphs [0040-0041] and FIG. 1. The

connector terminal is brought into conductive contact with the terminal and the connector is adjustable in the predetermined direction on the circuit board. See Specification at pg. 14, Paragraph [0046] and FIG. 1.

In this manner, the present invention discloses an electro-optical device (100) having a circuit board (200) and light guide plate (132). The light guide plate (132) includes an inclined surface that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction along the circuit board (200) and includes a wiring circuit board (122) disposed on a bottom surface thereof. The wiring circuit board (122) is connected to the circuit board (200) via a connector (210) and an elastically-deformable connector terminal (211). The connector (210) is adjustable in the predetermined direction to adjust a contact pressure between the wiring circuit board (122) and the circuit board (200).

Yoshii fails to teach a light guide plate having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface or a connector that is adjustable in the predetermined direction on a wiring circuit board.

Yoshii teaches a video signal line-side flexible printed circuit board (FPC2) that is connected to an external terminal of a glass substrate (SUB1) through an anisotropic conductive film. See Yoshii at Col. 11, Ins. 52-65 and FIG. 5A. A light guide plate (GLB) is provided and includes a generally rectangular shape having a constant cross-section. See Yoshii at FIGS. 4A and 4B. Because the light guide plate includes a generally rectangular shape and includes a constant cross-section, Yoshii fails to teach a light guide plate having a surface inclined in a predetermined direction along a circuit board.

Applicant further submits that Yoshii fails to teach a connector disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board that is adjustable in a direction of inclination of a light guide plate. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Yoshii fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention.

Because Yoshii fails to teach a light guide plate having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface, and further, because Yoshii fails to teach a connector that is adjustable in the predetermined direction on a wiring circuit board, Applicant respectfully submits that Yoshii fails to teach each and every element of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2, 11, 13, 16, and 20, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claim 21 is added for consideration. New Claim 21 calls for a light guide plate having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface and also for a connector that is adjustable in the predetermined direction on a wiring circuit board. In light of the foregoing remarks with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicant respectfully submits that new Claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

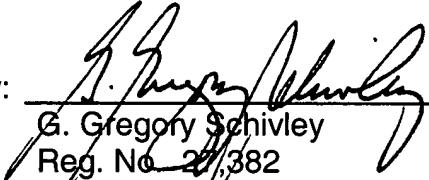
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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